

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 498

October 24, 1995, 4:25 p.m.
Page S-15551 Temp. Record

TEMPORARY FEDERAL JUDGEShips/President's Revised Budget

SUBJECT: Commencement Date of Temporary Judgeships . . . S. 1328. Hatch perfecting amendment No. 2945 to the Santorum modified amendment No. 2943.

ACTION: AMENDMENT REJECTED, 0-96

SYNOPSIS: As introduced, S. 1328, a bill to extend the commencement date of certain Federal judgeships, will amend a 1990 Act creating 13 additional, temporary posts for Federal judges. That Act authorized the appointment of judges in certain districts that had large backlogs of cases. Each judge appointed under that Act received a lifetime appointment, but each district that received an additional judge could not fill its first judgeship vacancy that occurred after December 1, 1995. Thus, a district that ordinarily had 3 judges that received an extra judge would return to having only 3 judges as soon as it had a vacancy after December 1, 1995. The intention was to give these districts with case backlogs an extra judge for approximately 5 years. However, because of delays in making the appointments, some of the judges appointed under this Act have only recently been confirmed. S. 1328, therefore, will eliminate the December 1, 1995 deadline, and will instead make the point at which a post will remain vacant be the point that is 5 years after the date on which a judge was confirmed under this Act.

The Santorum modified amendment would express the sense of the Senate that Congress should enact the President's budget as revised on June 13, 1995. (The amendment was offered to give Senators the opportunity to express their opinion of that revised plan by voting on it.) The amendment would make several findings, including:

- the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has determined that enactment of the President's proposal would result in deficits in excess of \$200 billion in each of fiscal years (FYs) 1997 through 2005;
- the President has claimed that his revised budget would result in a balanced Federal budget by FY 2002;
- the President's budget, like every budget he has ever submitted, uses Social Security surpluses in budget calculations; and
- President Clinton has stated that Presidents should rely on the CBO's projections instead of their own estimates because the CBO consistently makes better estimates.

The Hatch perfecting amendment to the Santorum amendment would strike all after the first word of the amendment and would

(See other side)

YEAS (0)		NAYS (96)				NOT VOTING (3)	
Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (52 or 100%)		Democrats (44 or 100%)		Republicans (1)	Democrats (2)
		Abraham	Helms	Akaka	Johnston	Kassebaum ⁻²	Bradley ⁻²
		Ashcroft	Hutchison	Baucus	Kennedy		Glenn ⁻²
		Bennett	Inhofe	Biden	Kerrey		
		Bond	Jeffords	Bingaman	Kerry		
		Brown	Kempthorne	Boxer	Kohl		
		Burns	Kyl	Breaux	Lautenberg		
		Campbell	Lott	Bryan	Leahy		
		Chafee	Lugar	Bumpers	Levin		
		Coats	Mack	Byrd	Lieberman		
		Cochran	McCain	Conrad	Mikulski		
		Cohen	McConnell	Daschle	Moseley-Braun		
		Coverdell	Murkowski	Dodd	Moynihan		
		Craig	Nickles	Dorgan	Murray		
		D'Amato	Pressler	Exon	Nunn		
		DeWine	Roth	Feingold	Pell		
		Dole	Santorum	Feinstein	Pryor		
		Domenici	Shelby	Ford	Reid		
		Faircloth	Simpson	Graham	Robb		
		Frist	Smith	Harkin	Rockefeller		
		Gorton	Snowe	Heflin	Sarbanes		
		Gramm	Specter	Hollings	Simon		
		Grams	Stevens	Inouye	Wellstone		
		Grassley	Thomas				
		Gregg	Thompson				
		Hatch	Thurmond				
		Hatfield	Warner				

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

insert in lieu thereof identical text, with the additional finding that President Clinton, on October 17, 1995, said of the 1993 tax increase that he and congressional Democrats passed: "Probably there are people . . . still mad at me at that budget because you think I raised your taxes too much. It might surprise you to know that I think I raised them too much, too."

NOTE: Following the vote, the underlying Santorum amendment was withdrawn, and the bill, as introduced, was adopted by voice vote.

No arguments were expressed in favor of the amendment.

Those opposing the amendment contended:

President Clinton has been running around the country claiming his revised budget will balance in 10 years. However, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) his revised budget will not be in balance in 10 years, nor will it be in balance in 20 years, 30 years, 40 years, or ever. The reason why is that President Clinton deliberately fudged the numbers, predicting unrealistically low interests rates and unrealistically high growth rates so that he could claim that there were hundreds of billions of dollars more to spend per year. Making up fantasy-land numbers to pretend the budget will get into balance will not get the budget into balance, of course--in this case, according to the CBO, it will result in an average of a little more than \$200 billion deficits for each of the next 10 years. By that time, our country may well be totally bankrupt, and our children and grandchildren will be consigned to a lifetime of poverty. This plan may be marginally better than the original budget proposal President Clinton submitted, which the Senate rejected on a unanimous vote, but that is not saying much.

To even call his revised plan a budget is to grant it a dignity that it does not deserve. It is little more than a sketch; the thousands of details that are necessary to make it credible are missing. For example, this sketch says that reforms will be made in Medicaid and Medicare, but exactly what reforms President Clinton has in mind, if indeed he has any in mind, is unclear. No leadership is coming from the White House; this President can posture and take potshots, but he is exercising zero leadership in making the reforms that the United States needs to make to avoid bankruptcy.

We would not need to present this amendment except that President Clinton and the Democratic National Committee have shown that they have the audacity to lie to the American people about the President's revised plan in an effort to shore up the President's political fortunes. The Democratic National Committee has been running a national television ad bragging about the President's phony budget with its trumped-up numbers. The ad talks about welfare reform, saving Medicare, protecting education, providing real tax relief for working Americans, and balancing the budget. The Clinton budget fails in each of these areas, while the Republican budget before us succeeds, yet the truth does not seem to be of much concern to the Democratic National Committee. Therefore, we have offered the Santorum and Hatch amendments, which will give our colleagues the chance to let the American people know exactly what they think of the President's budget. These amendments would express the sense of the Senate that the President's revised budget should be enacted into law. It will be interesting to see if any of our colleagues will be able to bring themselves to endorse this fraud on the American people. We doubt it--our guess is that Senators will give it the swift and contemptuous rejection it demands.